

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air political propaganda in the guise of an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Sinclair will be broadcasting not a documentary but political propaganda, an action frighteningly reminiscent of the communist "newspaper" Pravda in the former Soviet Union. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's heavy handed and arrogant actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Help protect our American way of life, which is a democracy not a plutocracy and help protect the traditional American values of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Thank you.